(b) whether Government initiated any inquiry to find out the close nexus between certain officials of RPOs and local police and the action taken against the erring officials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No instance has come to the notice of authorities about underworld criminals who fled out of India with tinkered passports by manipulating the process of verification. However, as per available information, one underworld criminal and his consort fled the country by obtaining passports under assumed names.

(b) and (c) As per available information, a case was registered in Hyderabad on 20.9.2002 to investigate the allegations of receiving passports *by* impersonation. CBI have filed a chargesheet in the competent court against 10 persons including officials of Andhra Pradesh Police and Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad.

Financial assistance for providing electricity in remote villages of Orissa

1585. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CM of Orissa has met the Union Minister of State for Non-Conventional Energy Sources and requested for financial support to provide electricity in remote villages that cannot be served by conventional grid;

(b) whether around 6500 villages in the State fall into this category; and

(c) if so, what is the action plan of Government to help the State to light up these villages?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held between the Chief Minister of Orissa and the Union Minister of State for Non-Conventional Energy Sources to discuss

implementation of various renewable energy programmes, including the Remote Village Electrification Programmes, in the State.

(b) and (c) Tentative names of 6374 unelectrifted census villages were Indicated by the Orissa Renewable Energy Development Agency for possible electrification through non-conventional energy sources. The responsibility for identification of remote villages which can not be electrified through grid has been entrusted to the Rural Eelctrification Corporation (REC). The list of the villages received from Orissa has also been referred to the REC for this purpose. Further action in the matter will depend upon confirmation of the names of the remote villages and submission of proposals by the State Government for their electrification through non-conventional energy sources as per the norms of the Ministry's scheme.

Setting up Mega Thermal Power Stations in coastline or at Pithead Sites

1586. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up Mega Thermal Power Stations, either along the coastline or at pithead sites;

(b) if so, the details thereof and their locations;

(c) how much money would be involved and how the same is likely to be generated;

(d) whether any such station is likely to be set up in Tamil Nadu considering its long coastlines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (d) It is proposed to set up Ultra Mega thermal power projects of about 4000 MW capacity each at coastal/pithead locations through competitive bidding. Various alternative sites are being examined for these projects based on use of coal.

(c) These projects are proposed to be implemented by a developer to